

Office of the Secretary of the UNICEF Executive Board
Template for delegations commenting on the draft country programme documents
2024 first regular session

Draft country programme document commenting period: 14 November to 4 December 2023 [18:00 hours Eastern Standard Time]

Delegations are kindly invited to use this template to share their comments on the draft country programme documents being presented to the Executive Board during the forthcoming session.

Delegation name: *Switzerland*

Draft country programme document: *Cambodia*

In accordance with Executive Board decision [2014/1](#), draft country programme documents are considered and approved in one session, on a no-objection basis. All comments received by the Office of the Secretary of the Executive Board before the deadline stated above will be posted on the Executive Board website.

	Delegation's comments	Response(s)
General comments	<p>The country programme document is well developed with a holistic approach focusing on both national and sub-national levels. The proposed thematic priorities such as (i) health and nutrition, (ii) education, (iii) child protection, and (iv) water, sanitation and hygiene are well aligned with relevant government strategies, namely the new pentagonal strategy, the national social protection policy framework, the public management reform programme, the national program on sub-national democratic development and other relevant sectoral plans/policies/programmes.</p> <p>We appreciate that the LNOB principle is well reflected. Also, we fully agree that the CPD will support communities, systems and institutions to prepare for external shocks, disasters and stresses and to strengthen their resilience to climate-related and environmental risks.</p> <p>We would appreciate if the following points could be taken into consideration for the final CPD:</p>	<p>Noted with thanks.</p>

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How will the CPD further strengthen the M&E system of key stakeholders, in particular the government? How are good practices documented and taken forward? How is the inter-ministerial coordination at the sub-national level strengthened? 2. UNICEF has been one of four UN participating agencies for the Decent Employment Project (DEY) since phase 1, and also will co-implement DEY Phase 3 (2024-2027). UNICEF’s work/components are on strengthening digital delivery of a TVET Cash Transfer programme and on developing and operationalizing a monitoring framework for Poor and Vulnerable Youth. This could/should be reflected in the CPD. On 14 November 2023, the RGC officially launched (i) the Implementation of Voluntary Social Security Scheme on Healthcare, and (ii) Technical Vocational Education and Training Programmes for Youth from Poor and Vulnerable Families. These schemes are a key priority of the government in the next 5 years (2024-2028). 3. Since the CPD is also working on health, we are wondering if and/or how it will also collaborates with the Kantha Bopha hospitals. 4. CPD will support the national programme on sub-national democratic development. SDC is funding two projects in that regard: (i) Improved Service Delivery for Citizens in Cambodia (ISD), (ii) Sub-national Democratic Development Program (SNDD)-Implementation of Social Accountability framework (ISAF). Do you see a potential for synergies between the CPD and those projects? 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Support for M&E systems of the sector ministries that UNICEF works with is included in the annual workplans based on jointly identified priority areas. Good practices are documented as part of periodic joint reviews conducted with the government. Research, studies and evaluations supported by UNICEF are disseminated through sector working groups that include all development partners. At the sub-national level, UNICEF will engage with provincial administrations and senior officials from Line Ministries and provide technical support to enhance their capacity in leading planning, budgeting and implementation processes through a joint approach that brings all stakeholders together (sector line departments, development partners and civil society organisations). 2. DEY Phase 3 fits within Output 1 of Outcome 5 of the draft CPD as part of key interventions 1 and 4, and links to UNICEF’s support of the national Family Package. 3. The CPD will focus mainly on working through local health departments to improve maternal, neonatal and child health services in targeted rural health facilities and district hospitals that cover the most vulnerable, hard-to-reach communities. Kantha Bopha hospitals are comparatively well resourced and have a long history and experience of high-quality services for vulnerable children. UNICEF will collaborate with Kantha Bopha hospitals – where relevant and feasible - through the Ministry of Health as part of learning, sharing and exchange of best practices to inform and guide local investments, possible models and strategies that can be adapted for the context of rural health facilities in lower resource settings. 4. UNICEF will build on progress made on citizens and youth engagement and work on advancing this agenda under coordination of the National Committee for Subnational Democratic Development Secretariat with other development partner projects in the area of social accountability.
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<p>Comments on specific aspects of the draft country programme documents</p>	<p><i>(Delegations providing comments may wish to include details, such as the page number, paragraph number, or page of the annexed results and resources framework.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Page 4 (paragraph 12): We are wondering if the CPD has been consulted with the private sector? In the texts, it mentions only the government, CSOs, UN entities and development partners. 2. Page 5 (paragraph 17): Which provinces will be targeted by CPD in the next 5 years? 3. Page 1 (summary): Indicative budget of \$18,075,000 (March 2024 to December 2028). How are funds secured? If the funds could not be mobilized, what are implications on the proposed programmes/ interventions and targets? What are the mitigating measures? 4. Page 1. Annex (Results and resources framework): Would it be possible to mention some indicative contributions from the government? 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Private sector played an integral part throughout the CPD development cycle, including the consultation with businesses on key topics such as youth skill development relevant to labour market, child online protection and child labour as part of situation analysis of children, “private sector” has therefore been added to paragraph 12, page 4. 2. Targeted provinces will be decided based on vulnerability assessment, together with government partners. Detailed background information can be found in sectoral explanatory notes. 3. The CPD proposed budget was calculated based on programme needs, assessment of existing partnerships and future funding opportunities. UNICEF will ensure it continues to build on its successes and innovates to harness opportunities, building on UNICEF’s tested and proven portfolio of public and private sector streams from the past, acknowledging that the bulk of UNICEF’s funding will remain public sector contributions – a stream that will require concerted effort to maintain current funding levels. UNICEF partnership management maximises impact for children through excellence in how we drive partnerships and ensures partners are satisfied and are keen to renew their commitment through partnership growth and renewal. 4. Government contribution will be discussed annually with government partners and reflected in UNICEF country office annual work plans as part of the CPD implementation.
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